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Army Call-up; ARP Training

1. Army Release. Army personnel have recently been released after 26 months of training.

Comment: If this was carried out in early March 1952, it affects the recruits who were called up in January 1950. The enlistment for the Frontier Guards began in the late Autumn of 1949, and was still in progress in January 1950. This release might affect the major part of the age groups 1927 and 1928 as well as some of the younger volunteers.

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2. Loss in Manpower due to Military Training. The forced military training of reservists is causing a considerable shortage of workers throughout Hungary. The loss of manpower is being made up by substituting female workers who are being recruited for industry by extensive propaganda.

The war-time strength of the army is planned at 900,000, which is 45 Divisions.

Comment: The present strength of the Hungarian People's Army is estimated at about 300,000, which is the normal peace-time establishment. This figure is to be trebled in the event of mobilization for war. The trained and re-trained age groups are the 1924 - 1931 groups (excluding the young volunteers) which amount to about 8 age-groups. One age group consists of 60,000 men (with the exemptions, 80-90,000). If the figure of 75,000 is taken as an average, the eight age groups would mean a strength of only 600,000 men, and even the inclusion of older age groups would not be sufficient to reach the total amount required.

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Therefore a minimum of 200,000 recruits are to be found, which means that a further three age-groups are to be called up; the 1932-1933 and 1934 groups.

The last mentioned groups would be called up immediately in the event of war or during the next two years, 1952-53. This was the previously planned strength to be reached at the end of the Five Year Plan ending in 1954. As far as is known, this plan still stands.

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The first-line age groups which received more than two years military training are the 1927-28 groups, and by the end of 1952 the 1929-30 groups will have completed their training.

The release of the above-mentioned 1927-28 groups would mean that the 1932 and possibly the 1933 age groups will be called up in the near future in order to keep to the schedule laid down in the Five Year Plan, but the strength required would only be reached by normal methods in 1953.

3. Equipment and Arms. The equipment and arms of the Hungarian Army is very good. A great secrecy however is enforced in the army, to such an extent that even the parents of serving soldiers do not know where their sons are stationed. Practical training is carried out everywhere. Recently old type twin engined planes have been observed in the air. An increased number of tanks have appeared training with troops.

4. Anti-Aircraft Defense. All the war-time concrete emergency static water tanks have been restored. Civilian air defence courses have been initiated throughout the country. These courses are partly carried out by anti-aircraft defence organizations and partly by the Partisan League (SZABADSÁGHARCOS SZÖVETSEGE). Short wave wireless sets to special early warning sub-centres are provided by the Radio Section of the Partisan League, BUDAPEST, 105 SZTALIN Street. The Central Radio Club of the League, also located at 105 SZTALIN Street, is training amateur radio operators for the Early Warning Civilian System.

5. KECSKEMET. New barracks with a capacity for 60,000 men are being built 6 km. from KECSKEMET, on the IZSAK road.

6. ROAD REINFORCEMENT. The preliminary work for widening and reinforcing all bridges and culverts has started on all roads connecting BUDAPEST to MISKOLC.

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